

June 1, 2016

In preparation of the 2016 Maine Charter School Commission Strategic Planning Meeting, Commission members completed a self- evaluation.

The evaluation began:

*Under MRS Title 20-A Maine Charter School Law the MCSC must "develop and maintain policies and practices consistent with nationally recognized principles and professional standards. Please rate our activities according to our paper (or what we have planned to do) and also by application of what actually happens in practice.*

*Well-developed = meets or exceeds NACSA principles and standards*

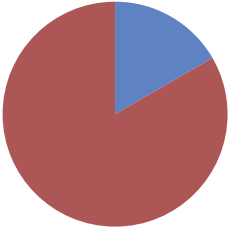
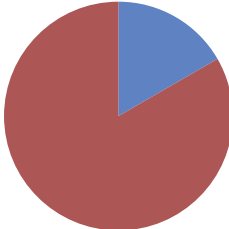
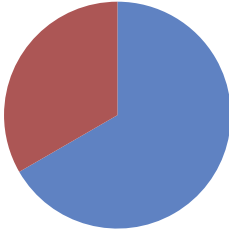
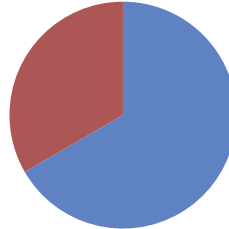
*Approaching well-developed = sound but requires modification*

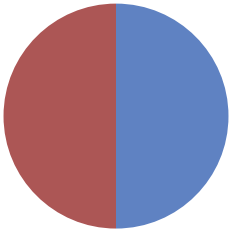
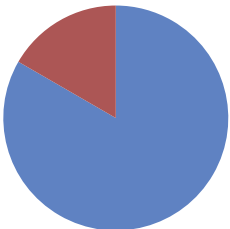
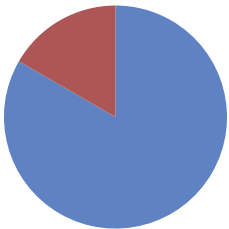
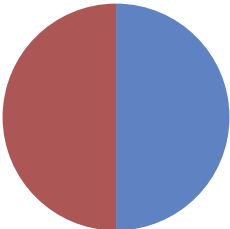
*Partially developed = incomplete containing some aspects of practice but is missing key components*

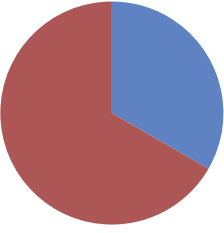
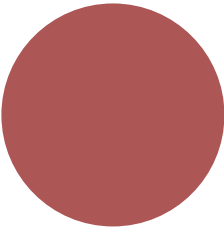
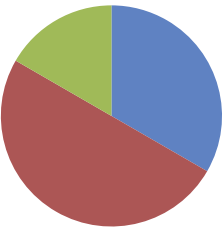
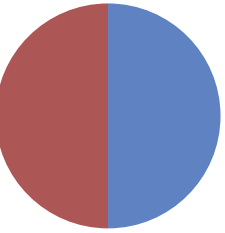
*Minimally developed = inadequate practice, falls short of NACSA principles and standards*

*Undeveloped = MCSC has not undertaken the practice at all*

All 6 Commission members completed the evaluation. Results to all 18 questions are on the following pages.

1. MCSC membership understands their roles and responsibilities and has the expertise in all areas essential to charter school oversight	2. MCSC purposefully employs staff sufficient to carry out its duties	3. The budget is aligned with the mission and operation of the Commission and is resourced sufficiently to carry out its responsibilities with the public's interest in mind	4. MCSC implements a charter application process that is open, well-articulated, well publicized, transparent, and has clear timelines
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5. MCSC has thorough requirements and rigorous evaluation criteria for academics, finances, organization and governance in the application	6. MCSC rigorously evaluates each application through review of the written proposal, public interviews and other due diligence to examine the applicant's capacity to operate a quality charter school	7. MCSC executes contracts that state the rights and responsibilities of the charter school and the authorizer including conditions for material and non-material amendments	8. Contracts establish the performance standards, targets and sources of data under which the charter schools will be evaluated and act as conditions of renewal
Well-developed	Well-developed	Well-developed	Well-developed
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9. Accountability decisions are based on documented evidence and analysis of performance expectations	10. MCSC implements a comprehensive performance accountability and compliance monitoring system that is defined by the contract and provides information necessary to make rigorous and standards based renewal, revocation, and intervention decisions while respecting the charter school's autonomy	11. MCSC provides charter schools with clear technical guidance as needed to ensure timely compliance with applicable rules and regulations	12. MCSC evaluates each school annually on its performance and provides a written report summarizing its performance and compliance to date and identifying areas of strength and areas needing improvement and clearly communicates the analysis to the charter school leadership and governing board
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13. MCSC ensures that charter schools admit students through a random selection process that is open to all students, is publically verifiable and does not establish undue barriers to application

14. MCSC ensures that charter schools provide access and services to students with disabilities, including compliance with student IEP, Section 504 plans, facilities' access and educational opportunities

15. MCSC provides an annual written report that provides performance data for the charter schools it oversees

16. MCSC has clearly outlined the criteria and process for charter school renewal based on merit and objective evidence of the charter school's performance including a meaningful opportunity for the charter school to provide information

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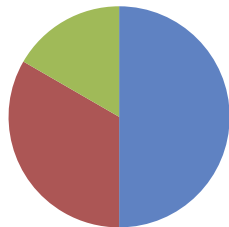
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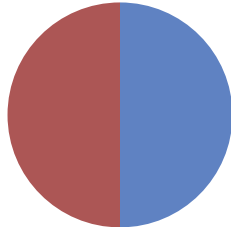
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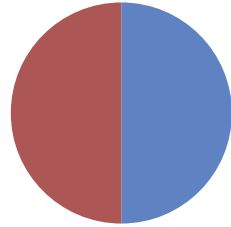
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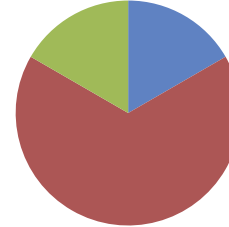
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17. MCSC has effective policies and practices for school intervention and revocation in response to clearly identified deficiencies in the charter school's performance

18. In the event of a charter school closure MCSC oversees and works with the governing board and school leadership to ensure timely parent notification, orderly transition of students and student records, disposition of funds, property and assets

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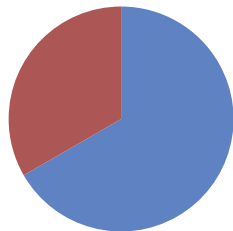
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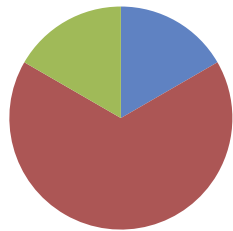
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Comments:

MCSC has made quick gains in operation since it began and is fine tuning now

The commission would benefit from a member with a legal perspective. Re: the application process, an additional meeting prior to the final submission of an application to help guide applicants toward ensuring a complete application might be beneficial to both the applicant and the commission. The with the growing number of charter schools the commission struggles a bit with the capacity to meet its stated obligations, asking more of individual commission members.